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sending the alpha numeric message over the network to a voice mail converter for conversion into a voice mail message, wherein the voice mail message is accessible for retrieval by the called party.

61. (New) The process for a calling party to determine telephone status of claim 60, wherein the alpha numeric message is received at the voice mail converter via a called party processor connected between the network and the voice mail converter.

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to reflect matter previously disclosed at Paragraph 45, which paragraph is provided below for the convenience of the Examiner:

45. Referring to Fig. 4, an alternate embodiment of the present invention is shown. All of the steps of the access to the status of the called party's telephone line is the same is noted previously in Fig. 3. However, instead of the user making the telephone call, the PC continually monitors the telephone status file. Upon noting that the called party's telephone status is in an on-hook condition, the calling party's PC dials the called party's telephone 115. The calling party's PC then waits to receive an on-hook signal from the called party's telephone 117, thereby signaling that the calling party is on the telephone ready to make the telephone call. The calling party's PC then places the telephone call to the called party's telephone 119, thereby completing the telephone call. It should be noted that at the present time it is possible to place a telephone call over the Internet. Therefore, the calling party's PC can place the call over the Internet to a called party's telephone or, in the alternative, the calling party's PC can simply place a call over the public switch telephone network to the called party's telephone.

No new matter has been entered.

Applicant respectfully solicits an early action on the merits of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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